REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-8, and 10-18 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, and 13 are independent.

Entry of the Amendment is Proper

Applicants submit that the Amendment should be entered since it at least places the application in better form for appeal, as it reduces the outstanding issues for appeal. The amendments to the claims re-arrange the ordering of the functions of the boot ROM in order to clarify their sequence of occurrence. The claimed functions themselves remain unchanged.

If a further prior art search is performed, we ask that the Examiner contact Applicants' Representative and conduct a **telephone Interview** in order to discuss any further changes that would place the claims in condition for allowance, as necessary.

Interview

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner and his Supervisor for giving them an opportunity to discuss the present invention. Applicants believe that as a result of the interview, the Examiner has a better understanding of the present invention and its distinguishing features.

Claim Rejection

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 01-223586 of Omichi et al. (referred to as "Omichi"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The microcomputer of the present invention includes a boot ROM that enables automatic control of the testing process. The boot ROM contains a control program to operate the communication circuit 14 (Specification at page 14, lines 4-14). In response to receiving a single command from an external communication device (e.g., 20 in Figure 1), the control program sets the conditions necessary for transfer and performs transfer of the test program from the external communication device to the RAM. The control program runs the test program and sends the test results to the external communication device (see Figure 3). Thus, control of communication between the IC card and the external testing device is initiated by a single command such that the microcomputer automatically controls processes (hence the term "boot ROM"), from the reception of various test programs to the outputting of test result data. Therefore, the present invention can efficiently perform simultaneous testing of a large number of IC cards automatically, because the responsibility for control of communications to be performed between the IC card and the external testing

device resides in the IC cards and the workload on the external testing device is little.

In Omichi, on the other hand, the test program and related commands, etc. are initially transferred by the testing device together in a "data block." Thus, transmission of the test program is under the responsibility of the testing device. After the data block is received, programs in the ROM begin operating on the information in the data block. Also, Omichi discloses removal of the test program after power is turned off, for purposes of security, but does not appear to be concerned with facilitating efficient testing of a large number of microprocessor devices.

Thus, Applicant submits that Omichi fails to teach or suggest the claimed ROM comprising a control program for, upon receiving a test command issued by the external test system, enabling receiving of the test program from the external test system through a communication circuit.

Similarly, with respect to claim 3, Applicant submits that Omichi fails to teach or suggest the claimed boot ROM having stored a control program for jobs of "upon receiving a test command issued from said check system, receiving a test program for said nonvolatile memory from said check system to be stored in said RAM."

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Omichi fails to teach or suggest each and every claimed element of claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, and 13.

Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 5, 7, 12, and 14-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Omichi in view of Lin et al. (U.S. Patent 5,818,848, hereinafter "Lin"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Lin's integrated circuit uses its I/O port for communication with the external testing device. However, as in the above for Omichi, Lin does not appear to disclose a boot ROM including a control program for, upon receiving a test command issued by the external check system, enabling receiving a test program from an external check system. Thus, Applicant submits that Lin does not make up for the above-stated deficiency in Omichi.

Therefore, Omichi and Lin, either alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest each and every claimed element. Applicants submit that the rejection fails to establish *prima facie* obviousness and respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the various rejections and allowance of claims 1, 3-8, and 10-18 is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Robert W. Downs (Reg. No. 48,222) at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicants respectfully petition a one (1) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application. The required fee of $110.00 is attached hereto.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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